

Editors: Marian Kelly
Dominic Palmisano



NOVEMBER MEETING

NEWSLETTER OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO
BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUB

Another terrific meeting! More than 80 enthusiastic accordion buffs crowded the hall on Monday, November 4th. First we had a little business to transact. Lou Soper announced that highlights from the Board meetings will henceforth be printed in the BAAC Page each month. We will also try to include a taste of the following month's musical program in the newsletter so that members can anticipate some of the goodies.

Admission to general meetings will now be \$1.00 for both members and guests, according to a recent Board decision.

Joe Smiell then came up with an inspiring proposition for BAAC: let's organize the First World Accordion Club Convention right here in San Francisco. After all, San Francisco was the first to have an accordion club, an opera, and a ballet. He suggests inviting two delegates from each accordion club and offering our homes to defray costs. Joe has been appointed to head up this project.

Tom Torriglia said he is putting together a compendium of festivals, competitions, and fairs. After its publication, he will send this information to clubs around the world. Great idea, Tom.

Peter Di Bono acknowledged the seven members who each donated three hours of their time at the Festa Italiana at Pier 35 the last weekend in October. They are William Demichelis, Clyde Forsman, Marian Kelly, Don Nurisso, Dominic Palmisano, Reno Pucci, and Lou Soper. In return, the Festa gave \$500 to our club, and the money has been added to the Performance Fund.

LET'S HAVE SOME MUSIC!!!!

Our two favorite Domenics, (one with an "e", and one with an "i", presented a great musical program. First, **Domenic Saso** played in his wonderfully easy style, "Song of India," "I Just Called to Say I Love You," and "12th Street Rag." We didn't want him to stop, but then....

Michelle Gallandre stepped forward and, of course, dazzled us with her renditions of "Le Gamin de Paris," "Made-moiselle de Paris," and "Under Paris Skies." Then, in musette fashion, she played "Retour des Hirondelles."

Curt Van Neck closed out the pre-intermission time with "Falling Leaves," "Czardas," and "El Relicario."

Dominic Palmisano put in a big plug for the new tape *Those Darn Accordions!* have just released.

A lively discussion about the pros and cons of serving alcohol at our meetings took place. The Board had hoped to resolve the issue at the general meeting, but when it became apparent that we did not have enough definite information concerning the club's liability or what license we should obtain, the decision was tabled. An appointed committee will investigate the matter, after which it will again be presented to the membership.

MORE MUSIC!!

Everybody's friend, **Vince Cirelli**, described his lovely Excelsior accordion, telling us it was hand-built in 1950, that it has 6 sets of reeds in the bass and a chamber unit. These instruments are rare today and treasured by those who own them. He then

performed "Little Coquette," "Ja-Da," and "Glow Worm" from the '30s in a very pleasing style. He showed us his unique bellows technique, especially the banjo effect he achieved in "The World Is Waiting for the Sunrise," and closed his program with "Oh, Marie."

We adjourned to our favorite hang-out for more music and good conversation. See you December 2nd!

Rae Lembi



COMING ATTRACTIONS

For
your listening pleasure

Our December meeting
will feature

The WORLD PREMIERE
of the
SAN FRANCISCO
ACCORDION
ENSEMBLE

Paul Pasquali, Director

Added Attraction
Stas Wesniach,
Accordioniste
Extraordinaire

GINA AVOLA

San Franciscan Gina Avola had her musical start as a student of Maestro Anthony Galla-Rini at the age of ten. She grew up in the Marina and North Beach where she played her first gigs. Impressed with her talent at such a young age, they passed a hat at a Levi-Strauss employees' Christmas party and gave Gina \$14, a grand sum in those days.

Her early musical experiences took her to the World's Fair on Treasure Island in 1939 and from there she began playing for a wide range of audiences. Early in her marriage, Gina played at her husband's night club and later, the famous Lucca Restaurant in North Beach. She has played for noted celebrities such as Herb Caen and the French Council General as well as at numerous weddings, birthday parties, and other gatherings.

Gina's specialties are jazz and Italian music. Her repertoire includes some 2000 tunes. She never fails to produce a tear or two of nostalgia as she plays for people who appreciate those fine tunes from yesteryear.

Nowadays she keeps herself busy playing for audiences mostly in Marin County where she lives. Like many of us accordionists, she has an electronic instrument with a Midi which she uses on most of her gigs. If you're in Terra Linda, you can catch her at La Coco's Pizza Restaurant where she plays regularly on Saturday nights.

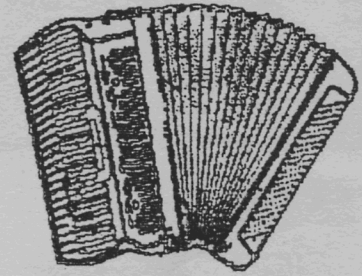
Finally, Gina was a great hit at the Cotati Accordion Festival last August where she received a num-

ber of well deserved encores. We're rightly proud of her musical achievement and glad she's one of our members.

By the way, catch Gina in person at our December meeting; she has agreed to serenade us that evening!

(Thanks to BAAC member Sam Franco for contributing to this article.)

Frank Montoro



BAAC Board Meeting Oct. 30, 1991

Highlights

- The Treasurer reported a balance of \$4,071 in the checking account and \$652.17 in the Performance Fund. It was moved, seconded, and passed that the Performance Fund remain separate from the General Fund.
- Current membership has now reached 186.
- Following a discussion of the difficulties and advantages of having alcohol available at general meetings, the Board decided to put the question to the general membership at the November meeting.
- Each person, member or guest, attending a general meeting, will be charged a \$1.00 entry fee from now on. The previous practice of allowing guests to attend three times without charge has proved difficult to implement.
- The President will appoint a committee to work on revisions and additions to our By-Laws.
- All board meetings are open to the entire membership. They are usually held monthly, but date and location vary. Call one of the board members to learn time and place of the next meeting.
- Joe Smieil, who was in attendance, suggested that we sponsor a National Accordion Convention in San Francisco in the near future. He agreed to chair a committee which will investigate the feasibility of such an event.
- Next meeting, Nov 20th. There will be no Board meeting in December.

Rae Lembi

Conductor's Column

Our Monday night meeting on Nov. 4th was definitely spirited. We were involved primarily in a discussion about alcohol—its effect and the Bay Area Accordion Club's liability responsibility. It is very apparent that we need to investigate this problem further so I have created an Ad Hoc Committee and appointed Tom Cordoni, chairman assisted by Frank Montoro and Carol Benetti.

What can we do to encourage volunteer players at our monthly meetings??? We keep hoping that, over the course of a year, most of you play at least once, because we believe that each of us has something of real value to show fellow accordion aficionados,

and because we need six or eight people of varying abilities, to perform at each meeting. We see that some of you are willing to play every month, some of you less frequently, but that many of you, including some wonderful players, never share their talents with us at all. Please volunteer to play!! Just speak to Domenic Saso!

Michele Gallandre suggested a Christmas sing-a-long for our December meeting, so we will have music available. And, since Christmas and calories go hand-in-hand, we'll have some seasonal goodies for you. This should be a refreshingly good time. See you on Dec. 2.

Lou Soper

LETTER(S) to the EDITOR

Dear Editor

Last month, I was asked to write a review of the San Francisco Accordion Festival. The text that appeared in the October newsletter, as opposed to what I wrote, was severely edited. One important piece of information left out of the text that appeared in the newsletter (intentionally?) was the two-day appearance of San Francisco's premiere gay/lesbian ensemble, the A-queer-dions, featuring BAAC member Gerry Downs. The A-queer-dions provided more entertainment during the festival than any other act and their efforts and participation

should be at least noted if not applauded. In addition to performing, two of the members participated in the Ms. Accordion San Francisco Pageant. I shudder to think that the Bay Area Accordion Club is adding homophobia to the list of problems already plaguing the Club. If this is the case, I resign.

Thomas A Torriglia

SMOKING CAN BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR ACCORDION

Yes, the same contaminants that mess up your lungs are also deposited on your accordion reeds every time it "breathes" (when you pull open the bellows). After being exposed to a smokey environment for some time, the reeds will get coated causing them to go out of tune; some may go flat, others sharp depending on what areas of the reeds the contaminants are deposited. Cleaning and returning a complete set of reeds can be very expensive. At least, however, the reeds may "live" again, and those that don't can be replaced; not so with your lungs.

from The ReedBlock, Aug. 91

MUSIC LIBRARY

Members: We need your help! Last year the club purchased several items which were to be made available on loan to our members as a part of a music library. We need to know who has them so that they may be inventoried and made available to other members. (e.g. Golden Age of the Accordion, Galla-Rini tapes).

Secondly, we would like to know what types of items you would like in our music library. (Tapes, sheet music, videos, ethnic music, what?) Give me a call at (415)-574-4757 or see me at the next meeting with your ideas.

Classified For Sale

V. Soprani Accordion, 120 bass
\$150.00
Oprani Accordion, 120 bass
\$250
Call Mel Schwing, 726-6765

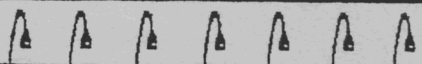
Concertina, like new!
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Galanti Ladies' size 120 Bass
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Ad Policy: Members pay \$5/issue
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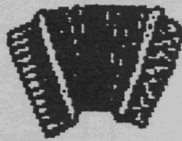


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DECEMBER 2ND
7:00PM

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CALL DOMENIC SASO IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO PLAY AT THE
NEXT MEETING..415-587-7557

Conductor
Lou Soper

Co-Conductor
Peter DiBono

Scribe
Rae Lembi

Banker
Marian Kelly

Teller
Carol Benetti